



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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RED-SQUILL POWDER SAFE FOR POISONING RATS

According to results of experiments with red-squill, conducted jointly by the Bureaus of Biological Survey and Chemistry of the United States Department of Agriculture, a powder can be made from dried red-squill bulbs which will have an efficient and uniform toxicity for rats and at the same time apparently not unduly endanger human beings or domestic animals.

The use of powdered red squill for the destruction of rats is comparatively recent in this country, although the poison has been in limited use in Europe for centuries. It has never come into popular use, however, even there, because of its tendency to vary greatly in potency. Several of the factors influencing its toxicity have been developed during the course of the present investigation. Officials of the Department of Agriculture anticipate that these experiments will be of material assistance in the production of a uniform and stable squill product. This poison should greatly benefit poultrymen and farmers generally who hesitate to use some of the commercial rat poisons on account of the attending danger to livestock.

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